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CATCHING

WILD ANIMALS A TRADE.

Daring Men Who Risk Life To Supply the Demand.

Carl Hagenbeck Discloses Some Secrets.

The question is often asked me how the wild animals exhibited in our menageries and zoological gardens are obtained, and I generally reply that they are purchased abroad from some one of those individuals on the continent who make business of dealing in them. One of the largest of these repositories for the sale of wild animals is located at Amsterdam, that quiet old city of the Netherlands, famous for its snappers and its diamond cutting, where a stranger fancies himself profane in the name of everything ends in "man," and where one can see an opportunity to study and admire the sterling virtues of the Dutch character.

It certainly seems an odd business for a man to deal in wild elephants, lions, tigers, leopards, hippopotami, and many other animals that go to fill up the cages of a menagerie. It is one, too, which gives rise to many strange and novel experiences, and the men who buy and sell these living wares are by no means dull companions if they can be led to talk of what they have seen and heard in connection with their singular vocation.

But these men are poor company compared with those whose life business it is to hunt and trap menagerie attractions in their native lairs and jungles. The stories these men tell of their hair breadth escapes from violent death, of the strange habits of animals, and of the many moving accidents by flood and field to which they have been exposed might well stir a fever even in the blood of age.

STRANGE AND WILD.

During my long experience as an animal trainer I have constantly had agents in every part of the world searching for all that was strange or wild in the animal kingdom. Under charge of these agents expeditions have been fitted out and sent to capture the largest and finest specimens of the wildest and seemingly most untamable animals.

The story of almost any one of these hunting parties would be quite as replete with thrilling incidents and of quite as strong general interest as that of any ever published concerning an African exploration or any attempt to reach the North Pole.

There is probably no representative of the animal kingdom that possesses such a strange fascination for spectators as snakes. All mankind regards a snake with a strange mixture of admiration, curiosity, loathing and hatred. A certain indescribable weirdness and mystery seem to cling about it. A man who was for a long time my agent in Ceylon, related to me many interesting anecdotes of the snakes of that country and of the methods by which he ob-

tained some fine living specimens of them.

He said that the two most venomous snakes of Ceylon are the cobra and the tic prolunga, between whom there exists so deadly a hatred that it is a proverbial saying concerning two people who have an animosity toward each other that they are like cobras and prolunga.

AN AMUSING FABLE.

Apologies of the enmity of these two serpents there is told an amusing fable, which also accounts for all prolunga having blunt tails. It is said that a very thirsty prolunga met a cobra and inquired of him where he could find water. The cobra agreed to give the desired information if the prolunga would promise to harm no living thing within a mile of where the water was to be found.

He promised, and the cobra then directed him to where, in the rear of a dwelling, a child was playing with a pan of water. The prolunga departed, and the cobra, reflecting on the treacherous nature of the prolunga, decided to follow him and make sure that he kept faith. But alas! the cobra was too late. When he arrived on the scene he found that the prolunga, after drinking the water, had bitten the child—even then writhing in its death agony—was making toward the jungle. The justly incensed cobra rushed upon him and avenged the broken promise by biting off a piece of the faithless prolunga's tail. Ever since then a blunt tail has been the badge of all the prolunga tribe.

Being very anxious to obtain for me a good specimen of the prolunga, my agent employed two native snake charmers and with their aid soon located one in a timarid tree. The only weapons with which the serpent takers are provided were two flagpoles and a long stick. The power of music over snakes is unquestionable (an excellent thing for all hard drinkers to remember), and the natives walked back and forth playing upon their flagpoles and waiting for the snake to emerge from his hole in the tree, some six or seven feet from the ground.

LIKE A FLASH.

Presently the snake came forth gliding down the tree and toward one of his would-be captors. Instantly the other threw down his flagpole and rushed at the reptile with his long stick, which he threw directly across the snake's body. Then placing a foot on each end of the stick, he held the serpent tightly to the ground, while he seized its tail with both hands. Presently with a movement like a flash of light, he released the tail and seized the thin part of the reptile's neck, just below the jaw, holding it with a grip like iron and thereby rendering it powerless for harm. His companion then pried the snake's jaw open with a small stick, and with another broke out the fangs from the upper jaw, thus depriving it of its deadly power to bite.

A very singular request was once made of me by a well known lady of fashionable society in New York. It was nothing more nor less than that I would obtain for her a baby boa constrictor for a pet. After infinite trouble I succeeded in obtaining a little boa two feet in length and not quite a year old. You must know that this lady has a peculiar fondness for snakes, and had travelled largely in India and other Eastern countries, where she had made a close study of the India snake-charmers and their methods. She had seen Indian women going about with snakes around their necks; it

was the height of her ambition to be able to do the same.

Like the professional snake takers she relied on music as a means of obtaining control over her pet, but instead of the flagpoles she employed her own voice. At first the snake did not seem to pay much attention to her singing, but after a time he seemed to be attracted by it, and at length would move his head and a considerable portion of his body to and fro in time with the music. In this way the lady soon obtained complete control over the boa, and was able to wear him around her neck with perfect safety after the manner of the snake women in India.

CAUSED A STAMPEDE.

It was an endless source of pleasure and amusement. She used to carry him about with her, when shopping or calling, in the pocket of her sash, and the sudden appearance of his head from out the folds of her sash gave rise to many most laughable stampedes in drawing rooms and crowded shops and cars. She taught him a number of amusing tricks.

Donning a very loose dress for the purpose, she would cause Master Boa to enter one of her sleeves at the wrist and crawl up her arm, across her bosom, down her other arm and out the wristband of the sleeve. He would cooal himself at the bottom of her work basket, and when she sang to him would wriggling his way up through the contents to top. While she sat sewing in her boudoir his snakeship would be coiled upon her lap and he was in every way as docile and playful as any kitten.

Many years ago, when the wonderful country of Australia, with its discoveries of gold was attracting general attention, I dispatched an agent thither with instructions to find and bring me, if possible, some hitherto unknown animal or some unparalleled freak of animal nature. He fulfilled his mission by cutting out of a wild herd and lassoing a hairless horse, a huge awkward beast without the slightest vestige of hair upon any part of its body. His skin was of a dark bluish cast and singularly smooth and shiny. He gained flesh after a time, and was then transformed, with his high neck and crest—though he was wholly destitute of mane—into a handsome animal, looking very much like a statesque horse that had been cast from some kind of metal. He was remarkably intelligent and docile.

ANIMALS NOT IN IT WITH MAN.

It is remarkable that no animal is large enough or formidable enough to defeat the attempts of man to capture and control him. There is no more convincing proof of man's superiority than this fact. Even the lowest savages have shown themselves able to capture and kill the strongest and most ferocious animals. There is no limit to man's daring, and there is no animal that he will not attempt to make prisoner.

The size and strength of beasts count for nothing against his cunning and artifice. From time immemorial man have spread a loop in which to catch the foot of the elephant, and have baited a hook sharpened at both end to catch a crocodile. Many of the animals which develop the organs of wonder in frequenters of menageries and zoological gardens are captured by cunning devices of a similar nature, but an agent whom I once employed to procure me an African lion did not resort to anything of that kind.

He was a rash, foolhardy fellow, though I did not know it at the time and these qualities led him, on the occasion to which I have referred, into a very dangerous adventure, which he afterward delighted to relate. Arriving on the coast of Africa he was hospitably entertained by one of the native kings, and one fine day set off into the interior, accompanied only by a native boy, and

armed with a pistol and an old musket of very large dimensions, having a shut lock and heavy iron ram rod. What subsequently happened I will let him tell in his own words, as he related it to me:

"Having walked some distance through a forest, we at length emerged upon the edge of a beautiful plain that stretched as far as the eye could reach, with here and there a single tree, or little clumps of two or three, each about the height of a full grown man. Upon their clumsy-looking trunks there was not a single branch, but from their tops grew out a vast tuft of long, straight spikes, resembling broad sword blades in shape. Around one of these trees there was a bed of tall grass which seemed trampled and tossed, as though some large animal had passed through it and rolled in it. We approached this tree, and, desiring to rest against my walk, I placed my musket against its trunk.

DROPPED HIS TAIL.

"As though my doing so had been a signal, a huge lion leaped up out of the grass, not 20 feet from where I stood, and, after gazing at us for a few moments, turned, dropped his tail and moved softly away. I immediately raised my musket to my shoulder and fired, but only to the effect of the lion was to cause him to turn in his track. Come bounding toward the tree. It was a loud and angry scream.

"There was no time to reload the musket. Seizing the native boy in my arms, I held him up above my head, so that he could reach one of the branches of the tree and clamber into it. I then ascended it by placing my feet upon the knobs and notches in its trunk—the scars of old leaf marks that had long ago fallen off. I was not a moment too quick, for, just as I drew my last foot up into the tree, who had by this time arrived on the spot, struck at it with his paw, missing me by barely an inch or two. Foiled in his intention of immediately making mince meat of us, he trotted a few paces away and crouched down in the grass, evidently with the intention of remaining there until we should be compelled to come down.

"There was my gun, lying at the bottom of the tree. If I could only get hold of it and reload it I might yet take the lion's skin and save my own. Fortunately, I had with me a long, stout cord, and, if I could only make a running noose on the end of this cord, get it around the gun and so draw the latter up, our escape was certain. The noose was soon made and lowered until it rested upon the earth just before the muzzle of the musket. I drew it slowly along the grass. Fortunately the barrel didn't lie close to the surface, and the cord passed easily beneath it, but I was not satisfied until I had worked my noose nearly to the middle of both barrel and stock and quite over one of the swivels.

"Tightening the noose by a jerk, in another half minute my gun was in my grasp. Reloading was but the work of a few moments. Desiring the lion to come near that I might have a sure shot, I directed the native boy to fire his pistol directly at the infuriated beast's head. He did so, and the fierce creature bounded forward to within 100 paces of my gun, roaring and striking his sides with his tail. Taking careful aim at the creature's breast, I pulled the trigger. When the reverberation of the discharge and the smoke arising from it had passed away, we could see the mighty monarch of the forest lying motionless and dead.

HOW TO SEE SNAKES.

"To return to the subject of snakes, I am often asked what is the best remedy for snake bites. I understand that in America whiskey is almost universally regarded as a specific for that calamity. Many snake catchers and trainers, however, place much greater reliance upon carbolic

AN AWFUL SHAKE.

THREE HUNDRED DEATHS RESULT OF AN EARTH-QUAKE.

One Hundred and Fifty-three Bodies Recovered.

Tehuacan, Honduras, Sept. 12.—A courier arrived yesterday from Tehuacan, and announced the most terrible earthquake ever known in that section. The loss of life and property is terrible. On Sunday the shocks commenced, lasting all day and all night at intervals, caused much damage and the greatest fear among the inhabitants of the city and neighborhood. By Monday the city was filled by an addition of 3,500 people from the mountains and outlying villages.

During Monday night sheets of flame appeared at different points to the northwest, rising to immense heights. Tuesday morning the shocks ceased and quiet was restored. But at nine o'clock that night, heavy rumblings were heard, shortly followed by a reappearance of the flames in the mountains which shot up several hundred feet. Frightened people again flocked to town and at midnight a church tower fell carrying with it the roofs of three houses, and killing 9 and wounding 18 people.

Rumbling, which sounded like the heaviest cannonading, commenced and lasted over an hour and a half, the people rushing madly through the streets praying and crying. Just before daylight another prolonged shock which is variously calculated to have lasted from two and a quarter to three minutes, rocked the whole town as if it were a cradle, many fleeing people were killed by rocks which fell in a perfect shower like a hail storm.

Smoke from the mountains to the northwest arose to an enormous height, followed shortly after by the bursting out of flames from the mountain sides, and the throwing out of rocks and lava. Shortly after streams of molten lava which set fire to a number of houses on the mountain occurred. Cattle grazing near by fled and were killed, being engulfed in the lava, which continued flowing in heavy streams. It is reported at Tehuacan that 71 houses were destroyed, and 133 dead bodies have been recovered, there are many more missing. At Covaquana 57 houses were destroyed. Ninety-five bodies were recovered.

At Cayucan 29 houses were destroyed and 111 bodies were recovered. It is impossible yet to give a full account of the disaster. Many small settlements are believed to have been destroyed. Shocks extended over the whole Yucatan chain and flames were seen also in the Cayucan mountains. The shocks have now ceased, but the smoke is still discernable at different points in the mountains. It is feared that the end is not yet.

A company of soldiers which left in pursuit of bandits from which the coast are unheard of and it is feared they are all killed. The shocks were first from the northeast to southwest and later completely contrary. People are still fleeing for their lives. Help for the victims is being asked for from the capital.

The disaster at Tehuacan is much worse than at first reported. The number killed in the towns and mountains, so far counted, amount to 287. It is believed more will be found as the search continues. The property loss is estimated at over \$600,000. The government is doing all possible for the victims. Slight shocks continue causing damage to property, though not to life. Two

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former extinct volcanoes are now throwing lava, though in small quantities. Night shows lurid flames to immense heights and a stream of lava is now running into the abyss. It is calculated that over 1,000 cattle are killed. Troops are scouring the country for fugitive victims. Of the company of 108 soldiers which was after the bandits, only 26 are known to have been saved. Food and clothing have been sent to the sufferers and refugees returning to Tehuacan and other towns.

KENTUCKY MORMONS.

A Conference Now Being Held Near Hawesville.

Hawesville, Ky., Sept. 13.—Twenty one Mormon elders from all parts of the state arrived here yesterday and are quartered at farm houses above town. There is a strong band of converts about two miles above the city, and today and tomorrow are days of jubilee. The president of the conference will assign the elders new work for the next six months. They will have several sermons while together, and after conference is over they will go by two in different counties and labor in the interest of Mormonism. There are twenty-four elders in this state, but three are ill and unable to be present. Some of the best farmers of this county have espoused the religion of Brigham Young.

Hon. W. J. Stone, of Lyon county, was in the city several hours yesterday en route to Louisville. Capt. Stone represented his district ten years in the lower house of Congress, and is one of the leading politicians in the State. A representative of the Gleaner, knowing Capt. Stone to be a conservative and accurate calculator, asked him what he thought Gen. Hardins major over Bradley would be, he said: "I place the majority at 20,000, though it may go higher." Capt. Stone has agreed to make several speeches for the ticket, in the month of October.—Henderson Gleaner.

A Centenarian Dead.

Mr. John Wyatt, who lived near the Calloway and Marshall county line, died last Friday after a short illness of the infirmities of old age, and was buried Saturday. He was probably the oldest man in the purchase, having reached the age of 106. Up to the past year or so he has been in good health. He had many relatives in the counties of Calloway, Marshall, Graves and McCracken and was well known.—Paducah Standard.

In a recent letter to the manufacturer Mr. W. F. Benjamin, editor of the Spectator, Rushford, N. Y., says: "It may be a pleasure to you to know the high esteem in which Chamberlain's medicine is held by the people of your own State, where they must be best known. An aunt of mine, who resides at Dexter, Iowa, was about to visit me a few years ago, and before leaving home wrote me, asking if they were still here, stating if they were not she would bring a quantity with her, as she did not like to be without them." The medicine referred to are Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, famous for its cure of coughs and colds, Chamberlain's Pain Balm for rheumatism, lame back, pains in the side and chest, and Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy, for bowel complaints. These medicines have been in constant use in Iowa for almost a quarter of a century. The people have learned that they are articles of great worth and merit, and unequaled by any other. They are for sale here by Chas. Ross.

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